As regards the provision of benches in the local vernacular school, the Director of Public Instruction has asked for a report on the subject and there is no further information available at the moment with the Government. You had better move the Inspector on the subject and wait for one month and if nothing is done within that period I give you permission to write to Government direct.

As regards the Sanskrit school at Kayancolam, the policy of the department is to leave it to private agencies to establish such schools and then to give them grants if they show satisfactory progress. I suggest that you follow the same course at Kayancolam.

97. Needs of the Mavelikara taluk.

MR. S. SANKARA PILLAI (*Member, Mavelikara taluk*) first dealt with the proposal of Government to levy a special cess on the lands benefited by the Parayankari canal. Government had invested about Rs. 13,000 on this canal and the idea appeared to be to recover the interest on this amount in the shape of a cess on the lands concerned. But there was no justice in thus recovering the interest from the ryots. The canal was not opened at their request, nor had they undertaken to make good any amount to Government in respect of the investment on it. Even otherwise the circumstances under which the canal was opened did not justify the imposition of any new burden on the people. Originally there was a canal in this area, which disappeared after some time. The *Punja* fields in the taluk deteriorated in consequence and began to give very poor yields But the tax on the fields continued to be assessed at the old rate. The people therefore agitated for a reduction of the tax at the time of the last Settlement As a result of the agitation, Government undertook to improve the lands by opening a new canal and the present Parayankari canal was opened in pursuance of this undertaking. There was therefore no justification in adding to the tax at the present time. Moreover, the neighbouring land-holders were not the only people who were benefited by the canal. It was equally useful to the general public as a means of communication. In equity therefore a duty had to be levied on the boats that passed by the canal.

Secondly, the member referred to the housing of the public offices in the taluk, which with the exception of the taluk office, the police station, and the Sub-Registrar's office were now housed in rented buildings. The rent on these buildings aggregated Rs. 1,500 per annum. Nor were the buildings themselves situated in convenient places. Some of them were situated in out of the way corners. The present taluk office, which was itself housed in a Sirkar building, was situated very near the local Krishnaswami temple and was not accessible to all classes of people. All those offices had therefore to be shifted to a central place. In fact Government had acquired a site for the purpose, which was lying waste. New buildings should be put up on this land and all the public offices should be shifted there.

The member next said that a bridge should be put up at the Prayikara *kadavu*. The portion of the main road from Valiyaperumpuzha *kadavu* to Mannar should also be metalled.

Another proposal of the member was to award a grant-in-aid to Vaidyan Mr. M. Krishna Pillai, who was conducting a Vishavaidyasala at Mavelikara.

His next proposal was to transfer one of the benches in the Quilon District Court to Mavelikara. There were now ten Munsiffs' courts in the jurisdiction of the Quilon District Court. Four of these Munsiffs' courts *viz.*, Mavelikara, Adur, Chenganur, and Krishnapuram, could be placed under the jurisdiction of a new District Court, which could be located at Mavelikara. Equally necessary was the restoration of the old Magistrate's court at Mavelikara.

In conclusion the member requested that Mavelikara might be made a separate constituency for the Legislative Council.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Sankara Pillai, in regard to the reopening of the old Parayankari todu and your request that the special cess on the fields irrigated by the todu should not be levied, the first point is that an estimate for cutting a new diversion channel at the head of the kal has been submitted by the Divisional Officer and it is now under scrutiny by the Chief Engineer.

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In regard to the levy of cess, the work was undertaken originally at the request of the ryots who were benefited by it. It cost over Rs. 13,400 and it is only reasonable that they should pay some little thing by way of cess towards the cost of the work taken up and done expressly at their request.

The question of new public offices at Mavelikara will be considered.

The Chief Engineer has received an estimate for Rs. 32,000 for a bridge at Arattukadavu and he is now scrutinising it.

Then you want the road metalled from the Valiaperumpuzhakadavu to Mannar.

MEMBER: Yes.

DEWAN: Does this road run parallel with the Tiruvalla–Mavelikara road?

MEMBER: The distance is only three miles.

DEWAN: I shall ask the Chief Engineer to send up a map showing the direction of this road in relation to other roads.

MEMBER: This road goes in the direction of Mavelikara, Tattarampalam etc.

DEWAN: As regards the Vishavaidyasala, that is a matter for the Mavelikara municipality.

The question of a District Court at Mavelikara will be taken up by the High Court with the general scheme under their consideration for the redistribution of the territorial jurisdiction of courts in Travancore.

The District Magistrate is still of opinion that a Magistrate's court at Mavelikara is not called for especially as it has a Bench Court recently established there.

You want to have a separate member of Council for Mavelikara. In that case Kartikapalli will go without a member because the number of members is fixed by rule and cannot be raised beyond fifty. As the Council stands constituted at present, it will not be possible.

98. Needs of the Mavelikara taluk.

MR. G. K. MADHAVAN UNNITHAN (*Member, Municipal Council, Mavelikara*) dealt with the following needs of the Mavelikara taluk :—

(1) A lady doctor, two European nurses and an additional clerk should be appointed in the District Hospital, Mavelikara, and it should be made a first grade hospital.

(2) The Thodiyil canal running from the Arattukadavu at Mavelikara to the Thodiyil kayal should be widened and deepened. If improved, the canal would irrigate extensive areas of paddy fields. The Vettiyar canal and the Karingali canal should also be improved.

(3) A hostel should be attached to the Government High School at Mavelikara.

(4) The Public Offices in the taluk should be removed to the site which Government had acquired at immense cost and which was lying waste now.

(5) The site which Government had acquired for putting up a building for the girls' school at Puthiakavu had been turned into a hot bed of filth. The foundation of a building had been raised on the site, but nothing more was done. The site should be made use of either for the girls' school or for any other purpose.

(6) A veterinary hospital should be opened at Onattukara.

(7) More control should be exercised over motor traffic. More traffic inspectors should be appointed. Schools should be opened by Government at important centres for teaching motor driving and licences should be issued only for candidates qualifying from these institutions. Candidates who had passed the V. S. L. C. examination or who had studied up to form IV should alone be admitted into these schools.

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